



A Ministry of Grace and Hope
2 Timothy 4:9-22
August 29, 2021
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this text God provides his church with five important insights into the work of Christian ministry.

The Text: 2 Timothy 4:9-22

⁹ Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰ For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. ¹² Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. ¹⁵ Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. ¹⁹ Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. ²⁰ Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus. ²¹ Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers. ²² The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

- 1) Paul gives a traditional closing in his second letter to Timothy.
- 2) The closing of 2 Timothy gives us five important insights into Christian ministry.
 - A) *Ministry is a team effort, filled with personal and relational challenges and blessings (vv. 9-12).*
 - B) *Ministry happens through ordinary means (v. 13).*
 - C) *Some people in ministry sin, hurt others, damage the church, and leave the faith (vv. 14-16).*
 - D) *The Lord himself is the true source and sustenance of ministry (vv. 17-18).*
 - E) *The Lord uses every kind of person to do the work of ministry (vv. 19-22).*

Response

May we, the ministering congregation of Hope Church, put on the ministry spectacles of grace and hope.

Sunday Text Questions for 2 Timothy 4:9-22 (“Entrusted to You” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: what ways have you served in ministry at a local church or in a parachurch ministry?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) What mental image do you have of the apostle Paul, and how does this passage personalize Paul or nuance how you imagined him?
- 4) What do you think Paul means when he says that Demas was “in love with this present world” (v. 10)?
- 5) Paul mentions people useful for him in ministry in v. 11. What does a “useful” person in ministry look like?
- 6) When Paul says that the Lord will “repay [Alexander the coppersmith] according to his deeds” in v. 14, what does that mean?
- 7) Have you ever seen a person damage the ministry of a local church or parachurch organization, and if so, in what ways?
- 8) How do vv. 17-18 remind us that the Lord himself is the primary Minister and the power and sustainer of our work and success?
- 9) People are tired and busy, yet ministry seems to be assigned to all Christians (see Ephesians 4:12). What counsel would you give to a new Christian seeking as “a saint” to do “the work of ministry?”
- 10) We have now finished two of the three Pastoral Letters (1 and 2 Timothy). What are some important lessons you have learned from these books thus far?

Further study this week: Passages on every Christian as a “minister:” Ephesians 4:11-13 (Mon); Acts 1:8 (Tues); Romans 10:13-15 (Wed); Romans 12:1-8 (Thurs); Matthew 28:18-20 (Fri).